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CHRONICLE.

MADAGASCAR.

LATEST INTELLIGENCE.

WE commence the New Year with tidings from Madagascar equally interesting and important. During the last month letters have been received from the REV. WILLIAM ELLIS, full of information. on various topics connected with the state and prospects of the Mission, and also a journal, containing, with other intelligence, a very graphic and interesting account of the coronation of the King and Queen, on the 23rd of Septenber. Our friend and the newly arrived Missionaries were specially invited to attend this splendid celebration. They were also honoured as guests at the banquet by which it was followed. A body of native Christians attended at the coronation, but so large was their number that the greater part were unable to obtain access to the enclosed ground. The joy of all classes of the native population was unbounded on the coronation of their new monarch, who had, during the few months of his reign, proved himself indeed the friend of the oppressed, and the father of his country; and his Christian subjects did not fail to seek on his behalf, by solemn praver to the God of all grace, peace and prosperity, and length of days.

CORONATION OF RADAMA II.

"Sept. 23rd.—After a night of short sleep I rose, and soon after six, a captain and twenty men, in uniform and armed, came to my house, and drew up in front of the door. The officer said they were sent to conduct me to Mahamasura, the place in which the coronation was to take place, and to attend upon me through the day, and see that I was not incommoded by the people.

"When ready, I seated myself in my palanquin, with the star of the Order of Radama II., with which his Majesty had honoured me, and proceeded with my attendants through the city. In the latter part of my way, I was immediately behind the idols, and at one time quite surrounded by them; and at that early hour, hundreds of people, in palanquins and on foot, were pressing towards the entrance to the ground. Banners, inscribed with "R. R. II.," were fixed on both sides of the road, at intervals of about every hundred yards; and tall green plantain trees had, during the previous day, been brought from the adjacent gardens, and planted, in groups of five or six VOL. XXVII.—1863. B together by the side of the way. On the ground, the position assigned to the respective divisions of the people were also designated by banners bearing their names. Banners were also placed along the whole line of the platform.

"About half-past ten I took my place in front of the Christians, among the native pastors, on the south side of the steps leading to the throne, it having been agreed that we were to offer prayer at the time of the crown being placed on the head of the King. Although the Christians occupied more space than that allotted to them, more than half their number could not find admission to the ground. On the opposite side of the steps were the Sisters of Charity, and about forty girls and children, and, still nearer the stage, five or six Catholic priests, and some of their people. Immediately in front of the Sisters of Charity and the priests, were the idol-keepers, with their also small number of adherents. The idols, thirteen in number, were carried on tall slender rods or poles, about ten feet high. In most of them, there was little resemblance to anything in heaven or in earth; yet such were the objects on which the security and prosperity of the realm were formerly supposed to depend, and for refusing to worship which so many of the most intelligent and worthy among the people had been put to death, while others had been subjected to banishment, slavery, torture, fetters, and imprisonment !

"The stage or platform was occupied by members of the royal family, on one side, and foreign guests on the other. Nearest the throne sat Rasalimo, the Sakalava princess whose marriage with the first Radama was the seal of peace between the Sakalavas and the Hovas. Next to her sat one who in her day must have been one of the brightest belles in Madagascar, for traces of beauty still lingered in her oval face and expressive features. She had been the wife of the first Radamas's father. The types of three successive generations of Malagasy nobles were there assembled, and it was deeply interesting to watch their varied aspects, the resemblance and the deviations from the Hova type, the latter being much fairer than any others.

"Some of the men were exceedingly handsome, among whom were the young Prince Ramonja, and Rambosalama's princely son. All were most gorgeously attired; scarlet was the predominant colour, though some wore green, others pucecoloured velvet. The gold lace, though not lacking, was not so abundant on the new as on the old uniforms. My scholars, sons of the nobles, in their velvet and gold uniforms, stood by my side, in front of the pastors, before the great body of the Christians.

"Before twelve, the clouds of dust, and denser throng in the road, as well as the firing of cannon along the mountain side, announced the approach of their Majesties. The Queen, splendidly attired in a white satin dress, and a tasteful ornament of gold on her head, rode first, in a scarlet and gold embroidered palanquin, accompanied by her adopted little girl, the child of Prince Ramonja's eldest daughter. The King rode beside her, mounted on a beautiful little Arab horse, and greeted by the plaudits of the joyous multitude, who crowded every available spot within sight of which the pageant had to pass; while the voices of the Christians might be heard singing most heartily the National Anthem, or Malagasy "God Save the Queen."

"Guards, clothed in green, and bearing silver halberts, attended the royal pair, and the officers of the Missions from England and France, as well as other foreigners, and Malagasy officers of State, followed. The Queen ascended the flight of steps leading to the seats prepared for their Majesties, under the canopy erected over the sacred stone on which the monarch, on commencing his reign, exhibits himself to the heads of the nation. The King followed, wearing the British field-marshal's

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uniform presented by Her Majesty Queen Victoria, and a splendid light-coloured robe. The dresses of the officers of State were most of them new, and some of them gorgeous. The robe of the minister of justice was of green velvet, trimmed with gold lace, the train carried by two bearers. When their Majesties had been seated a few minutes, the King rose, and taking the crown from a stand on his right, placed it on his head. The firing of cannons announced the fact. The band struck up the National Anthem, while the multitude saluted the newly-crowned monarch with the Malagasy salutation, 'May you live a thousand years.'

"The King then turned to the Queen, who stood by his side, and taking a smaller open-work crown of gold from the page who bore it, placed it on the head of Her Majesty. After standing a minute or two, to receive the greetings of his officers, and the shoutings of the multitude, the King took off the crown, the Queen sat down, and the King then delivered his kabar or speech to the people, assuring them that his confidence in and affection towards them, and that his purposes for the welfare of his country and the prosperity of all classes, were the same as when he was raised to the throne, &c., &c. After this speech, of which I shall hereafter send a correct copy, the King resumed his seat, when we all presented the hasina—mine for the Missionaries and myself.

"I then retired, asking an officer in blue velvet and gold to accompany me to my tent.* I threw my photographic blouse over my dress, prepared and placed my plate in the camera, and waving a white handkerchief as a signal, the King and Queen rose and walked to the front of the pavilion, and after a short interval I returned the signal that it was done. Their Majesties then resumed their seats, and the high officers continued to present their hasina. I proceeded to develop my picture, which turned out very well, so far as the chief objects were concerned. These, and part of the city, which formed the background, came out well. The constant moving of the multitude in front made the nearer objects confused, but this may be corrected and made complete by filling in the figures in the foreground from a second which I took.

"When their Majesties retired, the scene became more crowded than before. I saluted the King as he passed near my tent on his return, and was surprised at the quietness of his horse among the floating of banners, sounds of music, shouting of multitudes, and report of cannon; to say nothing of the shouting, and running to seek palanquins or bearers, as the vast multitudes, like a surging torrent, approached the place of exit from the ground to the road leading back to the palace.

"And now the scene—which, favoured by the nature of the country, a cloudless sky, and tropical sun, together with the joyous occasion which had produced it, made it one of the most imposing I had ever witnessed—began to change. The lower line of the granite mountain on which the city stands—and which two hundred feet above the plain, stretched from north to south behind the platform, at a distance of two or three hundred yards—had been thronged with spectators. Greater numbers still had spread themselves over the sides and summits of the hills to the north and the west; while numbers were seen in beautiful perspective extending from the base to the very summit of Ambohi Zanahary (village of God), a massive circular hill to the south-west. This throng of spectators, clothed in the long

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^{*} Mr. Ellis had previously been requested by the King to take a photographic representation of the scene.

flowing lambas of pure white, or deep rich glowing colours, and who, except when clapping their hands or shouting for joy, had been quiet gazers on the scene, were now seen moving in various directions until they were absorbed in the multitudes that crowded the roads leading from the plain.

"I had noticed as the King approached that the members of his family, especially those connected with the first Radama and his father, turned their faces towards him and clapped their hands, and sang some of the native songs, as was the custom in ancient times.

"I now packed up my camera, took down my tent, and made the best of my way home. The heat had been intense, especially in the small tent, and I was glad of some refreshment, having been on the ground from seven until nearly three. But before I had changed my dress a messenger came from the palace to say that the company were all assembled, and I therefore hastened to the coronation banquet, which was held in the large palace of Manjakamiadana.

"So far as choice, variety, and abundance were concerned, it was a right royal banquet. The silver-gilt goblets and tankard presented by Queen Victoria, very appropriately graced the upper end of the table where their Majesties sat, supported by the chiefs of the French and English Missions. The table was spread for a hundred guests, and that number actually sat down to partake of the royal bounty. A calf roasted whole and garnished, was the principal dish at the upper end. On the side boards were piled large substantial portions of solid food; while poultry, game, and fish covered the table, which was ornamented with vases of silver, manufactured by native artists, after European models. There were ranged along the centre, with artificial flowers and sweetmeats, preserved apricots, and pine-apples, with plums and cakes intervening. The healths of the Sovereigns of Madagascar, England, and France, were drunk, with a few others, after one of which the King rose, drew his sword, and made an energetic speech as to the principles upon which he would exercise his authority, and which he considered would tend to the good or the injury of the country.

"Soon after sunset the Missionaries and myself retired. Dancing afterwards commenced, and continued for some hours. The King retired at half-past ten to hisprivate apartment."

CLAIMS AND ENCOURAGEMENTS TO EXTENDED EFFORTS.

THE following interesting particulars afford conclusive evidence of the gratifying state of Christianity in the island, and the urgent demands for yet more extended labours, not only in the capital, but in remote parts of the country with which we have been hitherto unacquainted. The various statements subjoined are selected partly from letters from Mr. Ellis, dated September 26th, and October 6th, and partly also from his journal. These documents occupy many sheets, and the particulars which we now give are selected from different parts of these extended communications, and classified in order to render them more intelligible and interesting to our readers

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ENCOURAGING STATE AND PROSPECTS OF THE MISSION.

"I can only state that everything connected with the progress of religion among the people, is, considering all the circumstances, most encouraging. I hear of scarcely any defections among them from the integrity and purity of the Gospel, or any abatement in their zeal and earnestness in bringing others to Christ. Their numbers continue to increase, and the most marvellous and gratifying accounts are received from distant provinces.

"I am informed that there are hundreds of believers in the Betsileo country, two hundred miles from the capital, and in the region to which some of the earlier Christians were banished. They carried and scattered the precious seed of the Word, and a wide and glorious harvest invites the reapers to the field. I hope you will be able soon to send a Missionary from England to this important province.

"I have also received visits from Christians who had come from Vonezongo to the coronation. They were anxious to obtain copies of the Scriptures. Received a letter from the Christians at Fianarantsoa, stating their wish to see me, and their urgent want of Bibles. There are several communicants at this remote military post, which is in the Betsileo country, seven or eight days' journey from the capital, and I have been told that there are there some hundreds of professed Christians. I hope to be able to go and see them.

"I received a visit yesterday (Oct. 5) from another party of Christians far to the south on the east coast. The Hova officers at the military post have been the Evangelists.

"I went with the Missionaries to the morning service at Amparibe, where a vast number partook of the ordinance of the Lord's Supper. When the usual congregation had dispersed, others flocked in and nearly filled the chapel, silently seating themselves on the matted floor. There appeared to be about eight hundred. Great part of them were neatly, some of them tastefully dressed in clean European or Native dresses, and their calm, quiet, cheerful aspect, was deeply affecting. More than once during the service I was almost overcome by my feelings, especially when I reflected that little more than thirty years before there was not a single believer in Christ-scarcely a single hearer of His Gospel. I could not help exclaiming more than once to the Missionaries, 'What hath God wrought?' They were all much affected, and said they never expected to witness such a sight in Madagascar, and that they had never seen so many communicants together in England. An address was given at the close by one of the pastors of Analakely, and one of the pastors of Ambotonokanga closed with prayer. We had entered the chapel at nine, and it was twelve before we came out. I was tired and faint, for I had not had time for more than a cup of coffee before I went.

In the afternoon I went to the service in the King's house as usual. His Majesty had sent a message to say that he wished the service to be as usual, though he could not attend, as a meeting had been appointed with the French Commodore. The general and other officers, together with the Missionaries, had assembled, when the King came in, and after shaking each one by the hand apologized for being obliged to leave us. We then proceeded with the service in the usual way, and after a short address in Malagasy, I preached from, 'I will be as the dew unto Israel,' closing with an address in Malagasy. The Missionaries then took refreshment at my house, and we spent this, our first Sabbath evening passed together in Madagascar, in devotion and reading the Scriptures.

FAVOURABLE RECEPTION AND GRATIFYING PROSPECTS OF THE NEWLY ARRIVED MISSIONARIES.

"August 30th.—The King sent off early in the morning four officers of the palace to welcome the Missionaries, and conduct them up to the capital. General Johnstone called and said he would go with me to meet them, and Captain Anson also went to invite them to take refreshment at their quarters. The Christians were busily preparing their houses for them. They had made them look very comfortable, and had provided a most abundant supply of provisions. I went to the brow of the hill, and saw them in the distance. We descended, and at the bottom of the hill on which the city stands, met and welcomed them—that is, the first detatchment of their party, consisting of the two married couples and Mr. Stagg. I hastened to prepare them some tea and other refreshment, after which they appeared quite recruited, and pleased with their accomodation.

"I saw them again early on the following morning, the Sabbath, when all but Mr. Davidson, who had been ill, went with me to Analakely, where above 1000 persons were assembled for worship, whose countenances brightened as we entered. When I introduced the Missionaries to the King and Queeu, they both expressed themselves much gratified by their safe arrival, and by the prospect of instruction and improvement to their people. They also expressed much pleasure at the arrival of English ladies, and more than once said, 'May God bless you, and preserve you in health and comfort here.' The General and the other English officers also publicly congratulated the Missionaries on their arrival.

"September 4th.—Accompanied the Missionaries to the Prime Minister, who received them very courteously, and expressed himself much gratified at their arrival. He inquired about the respective branches of improvement which they would endeavour to promote among the people. He expressed his wish to give Dr. Davidson a house for his residence, and another house close by for an hospital, and to render him every possible assistance in his work. We thanked him for his kindness, and when we left, he sent his aide-de-camp with us to shew us the premises, which comsisted of a spacious court or compound now occupied by the houses of the minister's dependents, which he said would be cleared for the erection of a house and offices for the doctor. The site and space appeared most eligible. The residence is in the midst of a dense population, easily accessible to the Missionaries and the chief nobles of the "capital. I cannot but feel grateful to the Most High for this fresh evidence of His favour towards the Mission.

"5th. After the King had read in the Bible to-day, Mr. Toy, who had accompanied me, and who is acquainted with singing by notes, exhibited his books, and the modulator, or key to the new mode of singing on Mr. Curwen's plan. He explained the new method of notation, and sung several new tunes. The King sent for his best singers, and they were all delighted with the simplicity and distinctness of the new mode. The King expressed his wish that Mr. Toy should come and live near him, and be the minister at Ambohipotsy, and that Mrs. Toy should teach the girls needlework, &c.

"6th. Mr. Stagg, who had been ill with the fever, came to see my school, and was pleased with the attention and attainments of the pupils. I afterwards introduced him to the King, who made many inquiries about the progress of education in England, and seemed interested in the accounts of the efforts to raise the education of females, and promote the welfare of women by extending the range of their occupation. He shewed Mr. Stagg the school-house, built of stone, where his band was practising on the instruments sent from England. I have learned that the King is prepared to give orders for School-houses to be erected in the villages of the province, and to extend education as widely and rapidly as possible.

INTERESTING TRAITS IN THE CHARACTER OF BADAMA II.

" I hear continually of the great clemency of the King, and am not surprised at the affectionate feelings with which he is regarded by the people. I have been told by an officer who knows him well that, while Prince of Madagascar, he used to be deeply affected at the suffering and misery inflicted on the people, and the false promises by which they were often ensnared to their ruin. Some officers, his most particular friends, have told me of many of his attempts to mitigate the severities of the late Government. They said that when they first united themselves with him he said, 'our great object must be to lessen the sufferings of the people, to prevent unjust accusations, and undeserved and excessive punishments ; to rescue, if possible, those sentenced to death, and to do all we can to save the lives of the people. God will help us, for it is right to do it, and God will protect us.' In carrying out these purposes of justice and benevolence, they had often been in great danger, but had never been apprehended. The Prince said also, 'We must study the customs, the feelings, and the habits of the people, that, while we try to do good, we may not be entrapped, and put to death. We must not make any boast or stir about what we are doing; let the people find out what our motives are by our doings. We must always do good-all kinds of good.' These officers said that, by night and day, in darkness, storm, and rain, the Prince would be with them, sharing all their dangers, never deterred by any difficulty from either going to the high authorities and pleading for the prisoners and the oppressed, or to favour the escape of others who were sentenced to death. His great wish was that the people should be free, enlightened, and prosperous. He had, therefore, on his accession to the throne, recalled all from banishment, abrogated all cruel laws, given liberty of conscience to all, set free all the prisoners taken in war, and sent them home with presents.

"I am much struck with the increased sagacity of the King, with regard to any public measures submitted to his consideration, and with the progress he has made since my last visit, in general information, and in the power of judging of men and things; his cordiality to myself is unabated, though it is often severely tested.

"When the French and English embassies were on their way to the capital, it was announced to the King that General Johnstone, the head of the latter, had set off from Tamatave, and was coming to put the crown on the head of the King at the coronation. The King said, "The French say they are to put the crown on my head —now the English say they are coming for that purpose. They can't both do it, for I have not got two heads for each of them to crown. Go and ask my father, Mr. Ellis, what I am to do.' I was obliged to attend this summons. Though very early in the morning, I found the King, as usual, consulting with some of his officers, as he rises early and transacts a great amount of business before breakfast. I endeavoured to explain the mistake which had arisen from the expression, 'assist at the coronation.' But I also said I thought the coronation was a great national act, appertaining in its responsibilities to the Malagasy alone, and should from first to last be performed by themselves. The King said that was his own view of the

transaction, and that as he had received the authority he exercised by inheritance, he should assume the symbol of it neither from France nor England. The Secretary afterwards told me that the King had decided to take the crown and place it on his head himself.

"The King appears deeply sensible of the respect due to religious observances, and is keenly alive to impressions of compassion or kindness, as for instance, when the letter from Queen Victoria was presented by the embassy, the broad black mourning border seemed to affect both King and Queen with a kind of tender reverence; yet, with the constitution of a southern clime, he is easily excited to a kind of exuberant vivacity. When, during a conversation we had lately in presence of the Queen and others, some comparisons were drawn between the compassion of Queen Victoria towards the poor and afflicted, and his own kindness to the persecuted Christians, the King looked to me, as if for my approval. I said he had, in many respects, 'all that could be desired by a people in their King.' He looked grave, and said, 'Mr. Ellis knows what is in my heart; he knows that I desire to know and serve God. I pray to God to enlighten my mind, and teach me what is right, and what I ought to know and do.' The company appeared all very much interested in these remarks.

EXPRESSION OF RESPECT AND AFFECTION FROM THE NATIVE CHRISTIANS TO THE BRITISH EMBASSY.

" "On the arrival of General Johnstone and the other officers of the embassy, the Christians came to ask me to go with them to pay what they considered a suitable mark of respect to the General. On reaching the place, I found a fine fat ox standing near the door, which they had brought as a present. I explained their object to the General, and when, accompanied by the Bishop of Mauritius and Captain Anson, he appeared at the verandah, Rainimarosandy stood forth from the native pastors and other Christians that formed a crowd in front of the house, and in a brief, sensible speech, expressed, on behalf of the Christians of the capital, the great satisfaction which the arrival of the General and his companions from England, the land of their earliest friends, had afforded them. He said they felt, after the kindness shewn them, that they were regarded as friends, and were bound by new ties to their friends in England. That, following the customs of their country, they had brought the present of an ox (to which he pointed), of which they begged his acceptance, as an expression of their gladness in seeing their friends and the friends of Radama amongst them. The General made a very appropriate acknowledgment, to which the Bishop added some equally appropriate remarks, both which I interpreted, and the parties then separated with mutual pleasure. There were many men of rank among the Christians present, who had worn the heavy chain in prison and in exile, who had drunk the tangena, who had been doomed to death themselves, or had lost, for their faith in Christ, their dearest earthly relatives, and there was on this, as on all similar occasions, a reality and heartiness in their words and demeanour that seemed to make a deep impression on the minds of the visitors, even on those that made no pretence to religion.

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VISIT OF THE BISHOP OF MAURITIUS TO THE CAPITAL OF MADAGASCAR.

OUR readers are already aware, from letters of Mr. Ellis formerly published, that the Bishop of Mauritius in July last made a visit to ANTANANABIVO, with the intention of being present at the coronation of RADAMA, which was at that time expected to occur in the month of August; and also with a view to make himself acquainted by personal observation with the state of Christianity and the condition of the people generally throughout the island: but as the coronation was postponed until the following month, his Lordship was compelled to return before its celebration. His views in undertaking this Mission will be best understood from the following extract from a sermon delivered to his congregation in Mauritius on the Sabbath preceding his departure :—

"One end in view in seeking this personal knowledge is to avoid anything like interference with the noble work of the London Missionary Society—a work which has stood the test of long years of fiery persecution, and has left results full of promise for the future. In so wide a field, however, as that large island, with its several millions of inhabitants, there is abundant room for the independent operations of our Church, and while we are taught in our solemn services to pray so often that it would please God to 'make His way known upon earth, His saving health among all nations,' it is only the part of plain consistency when God in His providence sets before us an open door, to endeavour to profit by the opportunity, and to seek to make that way known. The history of that island, especially during the last twenty years, has furnished abundant illustration of the statement of Scripture that 'the dark places of the earth are full of cruelty.' Its present condition seems to warrant the hope that the Sun of Righteousness is rising on it, with healing in His wings."

During the Bishop's stay at the capital, his intercourse with our friend Mr. Ellis was kind and fraternal, and it was mutually agreed that in any efforts made by the Church Missionary Society, or the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, both of which he represented, the agents which these institutions might send forth, should occupy some of those wide fields of ignorance and heathenism, yet uncultivated; that thus no collision or interference should occur between our brethren and the new labourers, but that they should pursue their several operations in the spirit of mutual goodwill and fraternal regard. In harmony with this understanding, on his return to Mauritius, the Bishop addressed letters both to the Rev. William Ellis and the Foreign Secretary of the Society, in very kind and gratifying terms. The letter addressed to Dr. Tidman, we have much pleasure in presenting to our readers:

" Port Louis, October 6, 1862.

"MY DEAR SIE,—I send by this mail a packet given to me by Mr. Ellis, on the 18th of August, at Antananarivo; you will doubtless find in it an account of my conversations with him on the momentous subject of the evangelization of Madagascar.

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The two volumes which you kindly gave me in 1855, in the name of the Directors of the London Missionary Society have been one of several means for cherishing and strengthening my desires to help in that great work; and I am thankful to find by a letter received from Mr. Hawkins since my return, that he had communicated with you on the matter, and had received so encouraging a reply. Mr. Ellis is clearly in a position of the utmost importance at Antananarivo, and he stated without reserve his conviction that the missionary staff sent on that service can occupy that central field. My plan therefore is to work for occupying places on the coast; and having vainly attempted to get a translation of our Liturgy here, I thought of asking Mr. Baker to come to Mauritius and superintend that work, for which he is so well fitted by his knowledge of the language; and at the same time he might superintend their printing also. Our morning and evening prayers would be our chief want.

It would greatly rejoice the Directors and friends of the London Missionary Society to witness the reverence and affection with which the names of their former Missionaries are mentioned by the people; I must not, for time does not allow it, enlarge upon such matters, but I hope portions of my journal bearing on them will reach you.

"On Sunday, the 24th of August, I met some of your Missionaries at Ampasimbe, where we were resting for the day, and after our Litany, and a Malagasy service conducted through an interpreter, I read to them an account of my visit to the four spots where the martyrs had suffered. It was a solemn occasion. Further down we met the other three, all were well and in good spirits, with the exception of Mr. Toy, who was suffering on the Sunday from indisposition, but on the Monday was better.

"It would have given me much pleasure to have conferred with you personally and to have told you of Mr. Ellis's work, and of his kindness to me, but there is so much work here for me in French and English just now that I cannot leave.

"I trust we shall all feel the unspeakable importance of seeking that grace and blessing which alone can prevail to bring men out of darkness and vice to the light and purity of the Gospel of Christ. Nothing but actual contact with heathen darkness can make one appreciate the energy of the former which brings men out of it.

"Believe me, my dear Sir,

" REV. DR.'TIDMAN."

"Yours very faithfully, "VINCENT W. MAURITIUS."

THE BISHOP OF MAURITIUS ON RECENT EVENTS IN MADAGASCAR.

At the Annual Meeting of the Mauritius Auxiliary Bible Society, held at Port Louis, the 30th September ulto., the highly respected Bishop of the Colony, in moving one of the Resolutions, which had reference to the new and wonderful openings for the spread of the Gospel in Madagascar, took occasion to give the result of his personal observations during a visit he had recently paid to that island. As the Bishop, in the course of his journey through the country, and during his sojourn in the capital, enjoyed the best opportunities for ascertaining the actual state of things, and for forming an impartial estimate of the moral, religious, and social condition

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of the people, we have much pleasure in reproducing the speech entire, under the conviction that it will be received with great interest by our readers, more especially as it fully confirms all previous accounts as to the striking and happy changes that, in the providence of God, have been brought about since the accession of Radama II.

"The Bishop of Mauritius rose to propose the second Resolution, which was as follows:—' That the preservation and silent extension of Christian truth in Madagascar during so long a period of active and cruel opposition, is a marked and signal demonstration of the Divine blessing upon the reading of the Word of God. That this Meeting hails with thanks and praises to Almighty God the resumption of missionary undertakings in that country, under such hopeful auspices, and implores the blessing of Heaven upon his Majesty King Radama II., that he may wear with wisdom,'and in'peace and prosperity, the crown just placed (or about to be placed) upon his head, until he obtains an incorruptible crown in the Kingdom of Heaven !'

STRIKING EFFECTS OF CHRISTIAN INSTRUCTION.

" The Resolution," said the Bishop, "alludes to the 'silent extension of Christian truth in Madagascar,' ' and the signal demonstration of the Divine blessing upon the reading of the Word of God.' I think I may say with truth that I was never more impressed in my life with anything, than I was at witnessing the results occasioned by the spread of Christian truth in Madagascar! It is my firm opinion that it is impossible for any one to feel the full force of this impression unless he has witnessed and studied it himself. The effect of Christian teaching in Madagascar struck me as possessing a most remarkable character. And it was introduced to my mind in this manner :-- I was requested to attend a meeting of some of the natives. I said that I would do so if I could; but the heat of the season was so great that I could not remain on shore, and was compelled to go back to the ship. I there received a letter, addressed to me as 'The Bishop of Mauritius, our beloved brother on board the ship,' expressive of the Christians' regret at my inability to be amongst them on the occasion to which I had been invited, and requesting me to attend in the evening. In compliance with the request just alluded to, I went on shore in the evening and found more than a hundred persons met together to receive me. They listened most attentively to the Word of God ; and their praving and singing were of the most fervent character. They expressed great pleasure at seeing me, and intimated their earnest desire to have Christian teachers sent amongst them. After leaving Tamatave and proceeding towards the capital, the road lies on the right hand, the sea being on the left. Four attendants left the port with me, and three of these remained with me until I arrived at the capital, one having left me on the way. They were ever ready to enter upon the exercise of prayer. As an instance, I may mention that on one evening I was obliged from fatigue to go into my cot, and fell asleep. I was awakened in the early morning by the voices of persons who were engaged in reading the Scripture and in prayer, and on inquiry I was informed that these exercises had been carried on throughout the night. They were ever ready for prayer and for reading the Scrip-ture-more so, indeed, than I was able at all times to assist in, owing to my being sick with fever. Proceeding along our journey, we came to a place called 'Indivaranty,' where we met with many Christians, who walked out through the village

towards us, to welcome us. On arriving at the village we went to a house, where we found a woman, who is the aunt of a man now in this room, and who was a listener to the Missionaries who were expelled nearly 30 years ago. The honestu of the people-in a part of the country where there is no police, and no magistrate or judge men came in, whom I found to be Christians. They had each a copy of a Malagasy hymn-book, and they 'started' the singing of well-known English sacred airs. In testimony of their desire to read and to hear the Word of God. I now hold in my hand a copy of the New Testament which when I left Mauritius was quite strong, and all but new. I was only a few weeks in Madagascar; but such was the desire of the people to handle the sacred volume, that my copy of it has been reduced to the state which frequent usage of it by them now exhibits it to you. All of these young men were able to read, and one of them engaged in prayer. This was precisely the state of things I met with throughout my passage from the coast to the capital. In the capital and in its immediate neighbourhood, I was struck by yet more sterling proofs of the abiding power of God's Word; for, in spite of the cruel persecutions of the late Queen, there are at this hour many thousands more of openly-pronounced Christians than there were known to be at the ejection of the Missionaries in 1845. I met with many Christians who appeared to have had the truth brought to their knowledge in a very special and striking manner. Some of these I particularly questioned. One of them had been taught Christianity by a Hova mother; she had been seized, imprisoned, and had almost miraculously escaped; seized again, she was again imprisoned, and put to death with horrible torture. With reference to the way in which the Bible has been circulated and its knowledge spread abroad in Madagascar, I will only mention one further instance :- A young man possessed a Bible, which he had invariably carried about his person during a period of eighteen years. In the course of that long period of time, his Bible had frequently been exposed to the danger of destruction; but he had dwelt with peculiar confidence and satisfaction upon that passage which is found in Jer. xlvi. 27 :-- 'But fear not thou, O my servant Jacob, and be not dismayed, O Israel : for behold, I will save thee from afar off, and thy seed from the land of their captivity; and Jacob shall return and be in rest and at ease, and none shall make him afraid.' That poor man had read this in the midst of his troubles, and he was not afraid. He went on in his way; 'and here,' he said to me, 'we are now, in good health and in safety.' He further quoted to me the 11th and 12th verses of the 42nd chapter of the book above cited :- ' Be not afraid, &c. :' and six other similar passages from the Word of God.

RETROSPECT OF THE PERSECUTION.

" "Mention is made, Sir, in the Resolution I hold in my hand, of the 'active and cruel opposition' which the Word of God has encountered in Madagascar. The proofs of this, which are still in existence, are most striking, I was shown a chain, although the person who showed it to me had previously stated that he 'did not like' to exhibit it. It consisted of very heavy iron rings—now broken and cut through—and had been for many long years around the ankles of a poor Christian woman, whose life those rings had helped to wear away! Other instruments of torture—one of them a long iron bar with adjusting rings—were shown to me, by a person who bore marks of the sufferings they had occasioned, and must carry those marks to his grave; and, in spite of all this, the Word of God has yet gone on and prevailed. "In speaking of the second part of this Resolution, the resumption of missionary enterprise in Madagascar—when I was there, I could not help being impressed with the feeling, that, had we attempted, one year ago, the Mission upon which we were then engaged, we every one of us ran the certain risk of being put to death!

LARGE GATHERINGS OF THE PEOPLE TO LISTEN TO CHRISTIAN TEACHING.

"Arriving on the heights of Tananarivo, I never saw scenery more beautiful than was there spread out before me. In the dwelling occupied by the General and myself, we overlooked the whole of the city. Mr. Ellis, who was present at one of the meetings held there, said, there must have been at least 1500 persons present. I never saw anything like the fervour I there witnessed. I shortly afterwards again addressed the people, when from 1000 to 1400 persons were present—a mighty crowd pressing us in upon all sides. Whilst I addressed them, a kind of electric feeling seemed to possess and pervade the whole assembly. I spoke to them of the fulness of the blessing of the Gospel of Christ. The Rev. Mr. Ellis interpreted my observations, and their effect so gratified me that I recalled those lines of Dr. Watts :—

> "In holy pleasures let the day In holy fervour pass away!"

"Mr. Ellis commences his services early, and concludes them at 11 a.m. To see the people swarm along the streets, produces much the effect of a swarm of bees around a beehive. My firm impression is, that it is not of the least use to attempt to spread the Roman Catholic religion in Madagascar. One of the Roman Catholic priesthood whom I met there, observed to me that one might just as well attempt to *cut a rock with a razor*, as attempt to make Roman Catholics of the Malagasy!

PREPARATIONS FOR RESUMING THE LONDON SOCIETY'S MISSION.

"Before leaving the capital for Tamatave, I asked Mr. Ellis if he was prepared to undertake the immediate responsibility of conducting the Mission. He unhesitatingly replied 'Yes!' He stated also that the whole coast was open; that Missionaries were on their way out; and that everything was ready for missionary labour, even to the very centre of Tananarivo. Some of the first and most influential young men in the island are studying under Mr. Ellis's instructions, and one of the highest officers in the army has learnt his A B C under his care, almost in a single lesson; he had been regularly put through his lesson, and very speedily learnt it. On my way back from the capital, I met with the Missionaries of the London Missionary Society on their upward journey. I need not say that this meeting made us all exceedingly glad. They first joined in the services of our Liturgy, and we then held a service in the Malagasy language.

VISIT, WITH MR. ELLIS, TO THE SPOTS WHERE THE MARTYRS HAD SUFFERED.

"We afterwards paid a visit to the four places in which the Christian martyrs had been sacrificed. These holy men are resuming the labours of the Madagascar Mission under painfully interesting circumstances. The bones of some of the martyrs still remain where they fell; but Mr. Ellis did not wish to remove them, for Christian burial, until the Missionaries should arrive—and in this I fully concurred. Let Mr. Ellis say what was the effect produced upon him and upon the Malagasy Christians by the sight of this spectacle ! We passed by spots where their bleached remains still lay, ever since 1858; the martyrs having been precipitated down a

height of at least 70 perpendicular feet. There, striking against projecting rocks. they had rolled down a further descent of at least 50 feet. Those surviving relatives or friends who had been able to obtain the permission so to do, had removed some of these melancholy remains; but the bodies of several of the martyrs, on being hurled from the precipice, had been arrested in their descent by the wide-spreading branches of beech trees, planted there by English Missionaries many years previously; and evidences still exist of this fearful termination of their lingering agonies, and of the impossibility of according to them the last tokens of respect claimed by our common humanity. Our attention was directed to another spot, at which four Malagasy nobles had been burnt at the stake, for their profession of Christianity; and these spots could all be seen from the palace of the late Queen: or if they could not be seen, or if the Queen was unable personally to assure herself of the literal execution of her cruel decrees, special officers were despatched to witness the same, and to report the fact to the Queen. She would not, she declared, rest satisfied until she had uprooted every Christian in her dominions. 'These Christians,' it was her habit to say, 'will not cease singing their hymns, until their heads are cut off !' When I heard that remark repeated, I said that Christians would not cease singing until they had reached their home in Heaven! Numerous cases of dreadful persecution-the ordeal of the tangena, and other poisonous processes, were brought to my notice. These are the circumstances under which the labours of the Mission are being renewed. I think we may, therefore. say, in the language of the Resolution I hold in my hand, 'that this Meeting hails. with thanks and praises to Almighty God, the resumption of missionary undertakings in that country, under such hopeful auspices;' and I would earnestly urge upon the Meeting to pray Almighty God to crown with success the Society's efforts.

LIBERAL POLICY OF THE KING, AND HIS MEASURES FOR THE ENLIGHTENMENT OF THE PEOPLE.

"The third part of the Resolution calls upon us ' to implore the blessing of Heaven upon his Majesty King Radama II.; that he may wear with wisdom, and in peace and prosperity, the crown just placed (or about to be placed) upon his head, until he obtains an incorruptible crown in the Kingdom of Heaven.' Those who have not read the Rev. Mr. Ellis's work on Madagascar, should lose no time in giving it a careful perusal. I am sorry to have heard it stated by some persons in this island. that Mr. Ellis's book had been 'got up' to serve a partial end. I have read that book, and I can affirm that its contents are literally true. The King, anxious that his people should be relieved from the burdens which had borne so heavily upon them under the reign of the late Queen, has remitted all taxation. He is most anxious to ensure for them the blessing of education, and is himself engaged in superintending the building of a large school-house in the capital, to which he accompanied me every day during my stay there. One of the Missionaries recently arrived was to take charge of this school on its completion. As we are now specially met to speak of the Bible, it may be as well to state what took place when we went up to the palace to present the copy of the Bible to the King, with which I was specially entrusted. The officers of the Court, when I presented that Bible, received me amidst two rows of their ladies, all dressed in strange and almost barbaric splendour. The address I had written for the occasion was admirably translated by one of the high officers of the palace, and some of the sentences were so constructed as to be most suitable for Oriental literature.

"The King seemed to enter with much feeling into some portions of this address, and at its close shook me most cordially by the hand. This will illustrate the feelings he has regarding the sacred volume; and I trust it will quicken the sentiment of devotion with which we as Christians should implore the Divine blessing upon him, and that, in the language of this Resolution, 'he may wear his crown with wisdom, and in peace and prosperity, until he obtains an incorruptible crown in the Kingdom of Heaven.'—His Lordship then resumed his seat."—Commercial Gazette, 7th October.

ERECTION OF MEMORIAL CHURCHES IN ANTANANARIVO.

THE Directors of the Society are devoutly thankful that their Appeal for funds to secure the erection of four Christian sanctuaries on the several sites where the martyrs of Madagascar nobly died for the faith of Christ, has been answered with promptitude and generosity. Already more than half the amount of the expected expenditure has been realized, and this under the pressure of the unprecedented claims from the multitudes of our suffering countrymen in the cotton districts. These liberal contributions have, however, been made by the few, and the Directors trust that when the season arrives which will admit of a General Appeal to the Churches and Congregations connected with the Society, the other moiety will be cheerfully contributed.

The necessity of these erections will be seen in the intelligence from Madagascar contained in our present Number, in which Mr. Ellis repeats his former statements of the crowded assemblies that gather every Sabbath day in frail and inconvenient buildings, to hear the Word of God, and to celebrate the Ordinances of the Saviour.

The necessity also of an Appeal to British benevolence for the means to build these Churches will be self-evident to all who consider the extreme poverty and almost utter destitution of the great majority of the Native Christians. It will be remembered that in the years of persecution whatever property they possessed was forfeited to the Queen, if they were detected in any act of Christian worship; while the spies and informers by whom they were accused received their recompense also from the possessions of their victims. Thus they were robbed, peeled, and spoiled by their adversaries, and an illustration of many similar cases is given in the following words of one of the Christian refugees:—

"They sent officers and many besides to take me up, and they took all the people they found in my house, and my wife Rabodo also. My children, servants, and everything I had in my house they took away as a forfeit to the Queen. They bound my wife Rabodo, and flogged her from morning until night to make her tell who were her companions. She fainted, and they left her to recover a little, and then flogged her again. But she refused to give up the names of any, so that they were astonished, and said, 'She is a Christian indeed.' Failing to get her to tell

who were her associates, they put a heavy iron ring round her neck and round each ankle. They also fastened these rings together by heavy iron chains from the neck to the ankles, and then bound her to four more Christians. Five others were also bound together, and there was a third party of sixteen also bound together. Every Sabbath day, for seven months, they placed these three parties before the people, that they might see how they were punished for keeping holy the Lord's day. At the end of the seven months they separated them, and sent them into different parts of the country. My wife, Rabodo, was among those they sent to the west. She was left in bonds, and died on the 4th of March, 1859. Yes, she died in her chains, her works follow her. They pursued me for four years and three months, seeking to put me to death. But the Lord watches over the afflicted, and will not give the enemy to rejoice over them. My children they have sold into slavery, and my property they have taken, so that I have now no house to dwell in or land to live upon."

The writer of this letter is one of the most effective Native Pastors at the capital, but it is obvious that he and others of his fellow sufferers have no means of providing suitable places of worship; and surely they will not appeal for help to the Christians of Britain who enjoy liberty, peace, and abundance, and ask in vain!

The Bishop of Mauritius in his journal gives the following testimony to the poverty of the Native Christians, and expresses his earnest hope that the liberality of British Christians will secure for them capacious and appropriate edifices in which they may assemble for divine worship.

"The congregations have so long been in a state of extreme depression as to worldly circumstances, and so many of their members have so recently been delivered from persecution and imminent danger of death, that they are not able to do this of themselves, and it is to be hoped that there will be no difficulty on the part of friends and brethren at home in showing their practical sympathy with the survivors of such devoted servants of Christ, by giving gladly of their substance to help them."

Mr. Ellis, in his earnest appeal for help in this important case, observes, "The Christians here will do all they can, although twenty-six years of spoliation and suffering have greatly reduced their means. But they are willing, and will, I have no doubt, as far as they are able, render effectual aid in promoting the exangelization of Madagascar."

In his *last* letter, Mr. E. renews his appeal for funds to carry out this great work, which the Native Christians, from their deep poverty, are unable to accomplish; and we feel assured that these united testimonies must excite the spontaneous generosity of our friends throughout the country.

CONTRIBUTIONS IN AID OF THE ERECTION OF MEMORIAL CHURCHES

Henry Hopkins, Esq., Hobart	ľown	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	500	0	0
Ebenezer Herne, Esq	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	200	0	0
Henry Lee, Esq., Manchester		{ \$ 50	for e		of the		Mem	orial	}	200	0	0
Henry Reed, Esq., Tonbridge V		C			Church	es			J	200	0	0
Thomas Barnes, Esq., M.P., Bo	olton	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	100	0	0
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William Boult, Esq., Bristol	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	100	0	0
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T. M. Coombs, Esq.	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	100	0	-0
A. H. Cowie, Esq., Birkenhead	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	100	0	0
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William Edgar, Esq		•	•			•				100	0	0
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Miss Alers Hankey .	•	•		•	•	•	•		•	•	5	0	0
Rev. John Olive, Rector of	Wel	wyn		•	•	•	•	•		•	5	0	0
Rev. John Owen, Vicar of	Thrus	ssingt	on		•		•		•	•	5	0	0
Mrs. Parnell, Weston-super	r-Mar	e	•	•	•	•	•			•	5	0	0
Rev. F. Soden and Friends				•	•		•	•		•	5	0	0
Miss Stapler					•	•	•	•		•	5	0	0
Mr. and Mrs. Teversham											5	0	0

INTERIOR OF SOUTH AFRICA.

DEATH OF MRS. THOMAS.

It is now about four and a half years since the Rev. Thos. Thomas and Mrs. Thomas, accompanied by three other young Missionaries and their wives, left England to proceed to Central South Africa. The Mission amongst the Matebele was actually commenced about the month of October 1859, and since that time Mr. and Mrs. Thomas have borne an active and zealous part in the work, which in its present elementary stage has involved no little difficulty and trial.

It is with much concern we have to announce the death of Mrs. Thomas from the effect of fever, superinduced by a severe cold, together with that of her infant, leaving her husband and two little boys to lament their irreparable loss. Mrs. Thomas entered into the joy of her Lord on the 10th of June ult., having survived her infant only three days.

In a letter referring to the death of his pious and devoted wife, Mr. Thomas observes :---

"As in health and strength, so also, when afflicted and about to bid an eternal farewell to this earthly scene, she was perfectly calm and fearless, and seemed to have no misgivings as to how it might be with her beyond death.

"Indeed, from her prayers and her praises, as well as from her remarks to us during her short but very severe illness, we may unhesitatingly conclude that she has had an abundant entrance into the kingdom of her Lord and Saviour."

Mr. Thomas expresses his grateful sense of the kindness and attention he had received from his fellow-labourers, Mr. and Mrs. Sykes during the period of his heavy trial.

BERBICE.

DEATH OF MRS. RAIN.

Br the last West India mail we received the painful intelligence of the death of the truly estimable wife of the Rev. Thomas Rain, of Brunswick, Berbice. So recently as October 1861, Mrs. Rain, in company with her husband, left England to proceed to Berbice, and it was in her heart to have spent years of devoted labour for the spiritual benefit of the female population of that colony; but in the all-wise but mysterious arrangements of Divine Providence, it has been ordered otherwise. After a brief but severe attack of illness, Mrs. Rain was called to her rest and reward on the 15th November. We deeply sympathize with her bereaved husband, and trust he may be graciously supported and consoled under this deeply afflictive dispensation.

ARRIVAL OF MISSIONARIES.

The Rev. Colin Campbell and Mrs. Campbell from Bangalore, and the Rev. J. J. Dennis, Mrs. Dennis and family, from Nagercoil, South Travancore, per "Earl of Hardwicke," December 16th.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

THE thanks of the Directors are respectfully presented to the following, viz. :

- presented to the following, viz.:For Rev. S. Mateer, Pareychaley-To the Children of Providence Chapel Sabbath School, Uxbridge, For a Box of Clothing : To the Juvenile Society, Independent Chapel, Thirsk, For a Parcel of Clothing.
 For Mrs. Corbold, Madras-To the Young Ladies' Missionary Working Society, Park Chapel, Camden Town, per Miss Pringle, For a Case of Useful Articles, value £54.
 For the Madagascar Mission-To the Committee of the British and Foreign Bible Society, For
- of the British and Foreign Bible Society, For 24 Bibles with marginal references; To the Committee of the Religious Tract Society, For 24 Copies of Dr. Eadle's Edition of Cruden's Concordance.
- ten's construction of the second seco

- For Mrs. Thompson, Cape Town-To the Kendall Association of the Female Education Society, For a Box of Clothing.
- For Mrs. R. B. Taylor, Cradock-To the Young Ladies of Miss Scammell's Establishment. Shrewsbury, For a Case of Clothing, value £36.
- ±36.
 For Rev. W. J. Gardner, Jamalca-To Friends at Mere, per Mrs. Erlebach, For a Box of Fancy Articles.
 For Mrs. Alloway, Jamaica-To 'Miss Cook, Shrewsbury, For a Box of Books; To the Juvenile Missionary Society, George Street Chapel, Croydon, For a Parcel of Clothing.
 For Rev. W. W. Gill, Mangaia-To Mrs. Esam, Regent's Park, For a Box of School Mate-rials
- rials. To Mrs. Davies, Aberystwith, Mr. J. Lance, West Brixton, and to a Friend, for Evangelical and other Magazines, &c.

MISSIONARY CONTRIBUTIONS.

From November 18th, to December 17th, 1862, inclusive.

		,,	
Legacy of late Miss Farmer, Clapham 10 0 (C. M. Thomson, Esq., for the Na- tive Girl, Clara 3 0 (A Friend, for the Girls with Mrs. Addis	Mr. smith	day Schools, per Mr. Hobbs	Mr. Crabb and Fa- mlly 177 6 Mrs. Eldridge 1 0 0 A Friend 0 0 0 Mrs. Ginger 1 0 0 Miss Ginger 0 0 0 Mrs. Payne 1 0 0 Mrs. Payne 1 0 0 Mrs. Payne 1 0 0 Miss Stapler 2 2 0 Miss Stapler 2 2 0 Miss Archol 10 0 0 Miss Archol 1 0 0 Miss & Warton 1 1 0
Mrs. Oldfield 0 5 0 Mrs. Porter 0 7 6 Small Sums 0 9 0 Collected by Miss A. Owen.	Quarter ending March, 1862	Trinity Chapel, Brixton.	D. Ginger, Esq 10 0 0 Miss Stapler 5 0 0 Exs.16s.2d.; 52l.5s.11d. Walthamstow.
Mr. Downton 0 3 0 Small Sums 0 7 4 S., per Mrs. Barnes 0 10 0 Mrs. Griffin's Box 0 10 0	Holloway, Sunday School, per J.	Subscriptions. J. K. Welch, Esq. (D.) 5 0 0	Juvenile Associa- tion, per Mrs. Evans

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Mr. Masters 0 17 2	Temple Sowerby Collection 2 1 2	Mrs. Boden 0 10 0 Mr. Dakin 0 10 0 Mrs. Broadfoot 0 5 0 Miss Smith 0 5 0	Auxiliary Society, per T. Daniell, Esq.
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Collections \$ 11 0 Meeting	Mr Bell 100	Mr. John Boden 0 8 6	bor, Esq
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